

Appl. No. 10/037,287
Amdt. dated June 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A selectively releasable, interengaging fastening system for an article that is worn by an wearer, the fastening system comprising:

an article forming an article body;

a first fastener component comprising at least a first portion of an article, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality of substantially non-isotropic engagement members such that the engagement section has an axis of substantially maximal engagement; and

a cooperating fastener component comprising at least a second portion of an article, the cooperating fastener component being substantially non-isotropic and having an axis of substantially maximal engagement such that the first and second portions of the article are capable of being joined by movement of the respective components together generally along an attachment direction into an overlapping and interengaging configuration;

wherein the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to the attachment direction so that the fastening system is adapted to become more interengaged as the article is worn.
2. (Withdrawn) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein each substantially non-isotropic engagement member has a stem portion with a distal end region and a securement element disposed at the distal end region of its corresponding stem portion.
3. (Withdrawn) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the engagement section has an axis of maximal engagement and a generally perpendicular axis of minimal engagement.

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4. (Canceled)

5. (Withdrawn) The fastening system of claim 4, wherein the axis of substantially maximal engagement of the substantially non-isotropic engagement section and the axis of substantially maximal engagement of the substantially non-isotropic cooperating fastener component are both substantially parallel.

6. (Withdrawn) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first portion and the second portion of the article comprises a segment having a fixed end attached to an article body and a free end.

7. (Withdrawn) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

8. (Withdrawn) The fastening system of claim 7, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

9. (Withdrawn) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the fastening system can be used to secure the article in a configuration convenient for disposal.

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10. (Withdrawn) An article that is worn by a wearer, the article having a lengthwise longitudinal direction, a lateral cross-direction, and a longitudinally extending medial line, said article comprising:

a first article portion; a second article portion; and at least one selectively releasable, interengaging fastener system for securing the first article portion to the second article portion; the selectively releasable, interengaging fastener system including:

at least one first fastener component comprising at least one section of the first article portion, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality of substantially non-isotropic engagement members such that the engagement section has an axis of substantially maximal engagement;

at least one cooperating fastener component comprising at least one section of the second article portion, the cooperating fastener component being substantially non-isotropic and having an axis of substantially maximal engagement such that the first and second article portions are capable of being joined by movement of the respective components together generally along an attachment direction into an overlapping and interengaging configuration,

wherein the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to the attachment direction so that the fastening system is adapted to become more interengaged as the article is worn.

11. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10, wherein each substantially non-isotropic engagement member has a stem portion with a distal end region and a securement element disposed at the distal end region of its corresponding stem portion.

12. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10, wherein the engagement section has an axis of maximal engagement and a generally perpendicular axis of minimal engagement.

13. (Canceled)

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14. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 13, wherein the axis of substantially maximal engagement of the substantially non-isotropic engagement section and the axis of substantially maximal engagement of the substantially non-isotropic cooperating fastener component are both substantially parallel.

15. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10, wherein at least one of the first article portion and the second article portion comprises a segment having a free end and a fixed end attached to an article body.

16. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10, wherein the cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

17. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 16, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

18. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10, wherein the first article portion provides a first waistband portion; said second article portion provides a second waistband portion; the article has an intermediate portion which interconnects said first and second waistband portions; and wherein the article further comprises:

a backsheet layer;

a substantially liquid-permeable topsheet layer; and

an absorbent body sandwiched between said backsheet layer and topsheet layer.

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19. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10, wherein the first article portion and the second article portion provide respective first and second flap portions, each flap portion having a free end and a fixed end attached to an intermediate portion which interconnects the first and second flap portions; and wherein the article further comprises:

a backsheet layer;

a substantially liquid-permeable topsheet layer; and

an absorbent body sandwiched between said backsheet layer and topsheet layer.

20. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10, wherein the fastening system can be used to secure the article in a configuration convenient for disposal.

21. (Previously Presented) A selectively releasable, interengaging fastening system for a disposable sanitary napkin, the fastening system comprising:

a disposable sanitary napkin;

a first fastener component comprising at least a first portion of the sanitary napkin, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality of substantially non-isotropic engagement members such that the engagement section has an axis of substantially maximal engagement; and

a cooperating fastener component comprising at least a second portion of the sanitary napkin such that the first and second portions of the sanitary napkin are capable of being joined by movement of the respective components together generally along an attachment direction into an overlapping and interengaging configuration;

wherein the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to the attachment direction so that the fastening system is adapted to become more interengaged as the article is worn.

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22. (Original) The fastening system of claim 21, wherein each substantially non-isotropic engagement member has a stem portion with a distal end region and a securement element disposed at the distal end region of its corresponding stem portion.

23. (Original) The fastening system of claim 21, wherein the engagement section has an axis of maximal engagement and a generally perpendicular axis of minimal engagement.

24. (Original) The fastening system of claim 21, wherein the cooperating fastener component is substantially non-isotropic and includes an axis of substantially maximal engagement.

25. (Previously Presented) The fastening system of claim 21, wherein the first portion and the second portion of the sanitary napkin provide respective first and second flap portions, each flap portion having a free end and a fixed end attached to an intermediate portion which interconnects the first and second flap portions; and wherein the sanitary napkin further comprises:

a backsheet layer;

a substantially liquid-permeable topsheet layer; and

an absorbent body sandwiched between said backsheet layer and topsheet layer.

26. (Previously Presented) The fastening system of claim 25, wherein the cooperating fastener component comprises at least one of the first and second flap portions.

27. (Original) The fastening system of claim 26, wherein the cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

28. (Original) The fastening system of claim 27, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a

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pattern unbonded material.

29. (Original) The fastening system of claim 21, wherein the fastening system can be used to secure the sanitary napkin in a configuration convenient for disposal.

30. (Previously Presented) A sanitary napkin having a pair of end edges, a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge located between the end edges, the sanitary napkin including a selectively releasable, interengaging fastening system comprising:

- a first fastener component comprising at least a first portion of the sanitary napkin adjacent the first longitudinal edge, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality of substantially non-isotropic engagement members such that the engagement section has an axis of substantially maximal engagement; and

- a cooperating fastener component comprising at least a second portion of the sanitary napkin adjacent the second longitudinal edge such that the first and second portions of the sanitary napkin are capable of being joined by movement of the respective components together generally along an attachment direction into an overlapping and interengaging configuration;

wherein the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to the attachment direction so that the fastening system is adapted to become more interengaged as the article is worn.

31. (Original) The sanitary napkin of claim 30, wherein the first portion of the sanitary napkin is a first wing that extends from the first longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin, the first wing having a fixed end and a free end.

32. (Previously Presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 31, wherein the first fastener component and the cooperating fastener component comprise the first wing.

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33. (Previously Presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 32, wherein the cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

34. (Original) The sanitary napkin of claim 33, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

35. (Original) The sanitary napkin of claim 30, wherein the second portion of the sanitary napkin is a second wing that extends from the second longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin, the second wing having a fixed end and a free end.

36. (Previously Presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein the first fastener component and the cooperating fastener component comprise the second wing.

37. (Previously Presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 36, wherein the cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

38. (Original) The sanitary napkin of claim 37, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

39. (Previously Presented) A sanitary napkin having a pair of end edges, a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge located between the end edges, the sanitary napkin including a selectively releasable, interengaging fastening system comprising:

- a first wing extending from the first longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin and a second wing extending from the second longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin, each wing having a fixed end and a free end;

- a first fastener component comprising at least a portion of at least the first wing, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality of substantially non-isotropic engagement members such that the engagement section has an axis of substantially maximal engagement; and

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a cooperating fastener component comprising at least a portion of at least the second wing such that the first and second wings of the sanitary napkin are capable of being joined by movement of the respective components together generally along an attachment direction into an overlapping and interengaging configuration;

wherein the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to the attachment direction so that the fastening system is adapted to become more interengaged as the article is worn.

40. (Original) The sanitary napkin of claim 39, wherein the first wing and the second wing include the first fastener component and the second fastener component.

41. (Previously Presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 39, wherein the cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

42. (Original) The sanitary napkin of claim 41, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

43. (Previously Presented) A sanitary napkin having a pair of end edges, a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge located between the end edges, the sanitary napkin including a selectively releasable, interengaging fastening system comprising:

a first wing extending from the first longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin and a second wing extending from the second longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin, each wing having a fixed end and a free end;

a first fastener component comprising at least a portion of the first wing and the second wing, each first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality of substantially non-isotropic engagement members such that the engagement section has an axis of substantially maximal engagement; and

a cooperating fastener component comprising at least a portion of the first wing and the second wing such that each first and second wings of the sanitary napkin are

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capable of being joined by movement of the respective components together generally along an attachment direction into an overlapping and interengaging configuration;

wherein the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to the attachment direction so that the fastening system is adapted to become more interengaged as the article is worn.

44. (Original) The sanitary napkin of claim 43, wherein each substantially non-isotropic engagement member has a stem portion with a distal end region and a securement element disposed at the distal end region of its corresponding stem portion.

45. (Previously Presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 43, wherein each second fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

46. (Original) The sanitary napkin of claim 45, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

47. (Original) The sanitary napkin of claim 43, wherein at least one wing includes perforation lines adjacent its fixed end to provide quick removal of the napkin by tearing the wing along the perforation lines.

48. (Canceled)